

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending. Claims 1-7, 9-13, 15, 16, 25-27, and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,108,619 to Carter et al. Claims 8, 19-21, and 23-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,108,619 to Carter et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,353 to Hazlehurst et al. Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,108,619 to Carter et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,173,261 to Arai et al. Claims 17, 22, 28, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,108,619 to Carter et al.

Reconsideration is requested. No new matter is added. The specification is amended. The rejections are traversed. Claims 1-30 remain in the case for consideration.

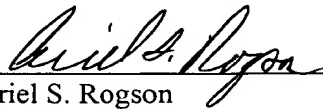
The Examiner's comment that the IDS filed February 12, 2001 has not been considered because the references could not be found. A new IDS, with new copies of the references, as submitted herewith.

The Examiner has rejected all the claims as being anticipated by the '619 patent to Carter. As the Examiner has noted, this patent application has an assignee and inventorship in common with the '619 patent. In addition, this patent application is copending with the '619. Finally, this patent application was filed before November 29, 2000; thus, under § 1.78(a)(2)(ii)(B), the time limit of § 1.78(a)(2)(ii) in which to claim priority does not apply. Accordingly, this patent application has been amended to include a claim of priority from the '619 patent, which removes the '619 patent as prior art under both 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and § 103(a).

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-30 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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